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January 27, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
c/o Natek, Inc.
213 Massachusetts Avenue NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Re: WT Docket No. 01-289
Ex Parte Filing

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is submitted in connection with the Commission's consideration of issues raised in the above-referenced proceeding and, in particular, a proposal by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration ("NTIA") to revise the wording of Rule 87.305. That revision would reference the Aerospace and Flight Test Radio Coordinating Council ("AFTRCC") as the entity charged with coordinating the use of flight test frequencies.

As the Commission is aware, AFTRCC has been the designated coordinator for flight test frequencies for many years. This designation was effected in 1969. Public Notice, FCC 69-490 (May 8, 1969). Consistent with this, Non-Government parties engaged in the flight testing of manned and unmanned aircraft have looked to AFTRCC to provide the requisite coordination services. Moreover, the Government Area Frequency Coordinators and AFTRCC coordinate with each other for the day-to-day scheduling of missions. This procedure is unique to flight testing. It is indicative of the fact that flight test spectrum is exclusively allocated for this purpose, that much flight test work is conducted by AFTRCC member companies pursuant to contract with the Government, and the fact that interference-free communications is imperative to pilot safety given the risks associated with flight test operations.

Insofar as the change proposed by NTIA is concerned, it would be consistent with the common practice and policy for these past many years. However, it also appears that frequency coordinators are not typically named in the Rules; rather, they are referenced in various Public Notices or Orders. This saves all concerned the task of formally amending the Rules when an entity's street or mailing address changes, for example -- an event that occurs from time to time over the years. Given this, and the fact that we are unaware of any confusion resulting from the current text of Rule 87.305, AFTRCC is of the view that the text of the Rule can be left as it is

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with the proposed change dealt with via public notice at the time of any change in AFTRCC contact information.

If there any questions regarding this matter, kindly contact the undersigned.

A copy of this ex parte filing is submitted for inclusion in the Docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William K. Keane", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William K. Keane

cc: Kathy D. Smith
Fredrick R. Wentland
Darlene Drazenovich